

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PDEV, PGOV, PP

SUBJ: INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS (NO. 1)

1. NOW THAT SEPTEMBER 16 HAS BEEN CHOSEN AS PNG INDEPENDENCE DATE, GPNG IS BEGINNING TO BRING ITS PLANS FOR THE CELEBRATIONS INTO FINAL SHAPE. WE ANTICIPATE MANY MESSAGES ON THE SUBJECT, AND WILL NUMBER OUR CABLES FOR EASIER IDENTIFICATION BEGINNING WITH THIS ONE.

2. CHIEF MINISTER SOMARE WILL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS SIGN LETTERS OF NOTIFICATION THAT FORMAL INVITATIONS WILL SOON BE EXTENDED. IDENTICAL LETTERS ARE TO BE SENT TO AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND FIJI, AND ALMOST IDENTICAL LETTERS TO THE U.S., INDONESIA AND NAURU. I WAS GIVEN COPIES OF LETTERS TO FOLLOWING:

A. TO THE PRESIDENT: STATING THAT THE NOTICE OF INVITATION IS NOT LONG, AND HENCE THE PRESIDENT MAY PREFER TO DELEGATE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND IN HIS PLACE. THIS LETTER WILL GO VIA AUSTRALIAN POUCH TO WASHINGTON AND BE DELIVERED THERE.

B. TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THROUGH AMBASSADOR GREEN: STATING THAT A FORMAL INVITATION WILL BE ISSUED TO THE USG, AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT LOOKS FORWARD TO THE

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PLEASURE OF RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

NOMINATED AS REPRESENTATIVE. LETTER THEN SUGGESTS THAT USG DELEGATE THE ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVE RESIDENT IN PNG TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE.

C. TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, CONGRESS OF MICRONESIA: ALSO TELLING HIM THAT AN INVITATION WILL BE EXTENDED TO GUAM, AMERICAN SAMOA AND TTPI.

3. IN SPITE OF THE SOMEWHAT OBSCURE WORDING, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GPNG WANTS A HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO COME FROM WASHINGTON. GPNG HAS HIGH HOPES THAT PRINCE CHARLES PLUS A MINISTERIAL LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE WILL COME FROM UK AND THAT CROWN PRINCE OF JAPAN WILL ATTEND, AMONG OTHERS.

4. REPRESENTATIVE FROM WASHINGTON ACCOMPANIED BY SPOUSE IS BEING ASKED TO ARRIVE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13. HOWEVER, FIRST CEREMONY WILL BE ECUMENICAL SERVICE 1600 HOURS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14. GPNG HOPES U.S. REP WILL REMAIN THROUGH 17TH TO ENABLE HIM TO VISIT SOME OTHER PART OF PNG WHERE HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL CELEBRATIONS.

5. U.S. REP WILL NOT BE EXPECTED TO MAKE FORMAL SPEECH.

6. GPNG WOULD APPRECIATE WRITTEN MESSAGE OF GOOD WILL WHICH WILL BE BROADCAST.

7. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE GPNG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW TYPE OF AIRCRAFT, FUELING REQUIREMENTS, SPACE NEEDED AND SECURITY OF AIRCRAFT COMING FROM WASHINGTON. WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER AIRCRAFT WILL REMAIN IN PORT MORESBY OR GO TO TOWNSVILLE FOR DURATION OF STAY. (THEY PREFER LATTER.)

8. INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE HAS INFORMALLY ASKED IF AIRCRAFT FROM WASHINGTON COULD STOP AT SOME OF PACIFIC ISLANDS EN ROUTE TO PICK UP OTHER GUESTS. SUGGESTED MICRONESIA AS AN EXAMPLE. RATIONALE IS THAT LOCAL AIRPORT IS NOT LARGE ENOUGH TO RECEIVE AND ACCOMMODATE LARGE NUMBER OF SPECIAL AIRCRAFT, HENCE GPNG HOPES THERE CAN BE SOME PLANE POOLING. (COMMENT: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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I WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IN ANSWERING THIS PROMPTLY AS IT COMES UP EVERY TIME I TALK TO THE INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE.) OLMSTED

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